



Overgrazing is when herders permit their animals to graze extensively in a limited area without giving plant life enough time to recover. Overgrazing threatens the environmental stability of the **Middle Atlas region of Morocco**.

U.S.-MOROCCO ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION ON RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

OVERGRAZING IS ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS to the health and sustainability of Morocco's forests. Grazing by animals like sheep and goats is currently at levels far beyond the land's carrying capacity, jeopardizing regeneration and reforestation efforts, and leading to increased erosion and water quality problems.

As a part of the **U.S.-Morocco Joint Statement on Environmental Cooperation**, and with support from the U.S. Department of State, the United States Forest Service (USFS) is working with the Moroccan High Commission on Water, Forests and Combating Desertification (HC) to address overgrazing in the **Middle Atlas region**, an area which supplies close to **60% of Morocco's freshwater resources**.

In the Middle Atlas, the USFS is working with the HC to implement **rangeland management and extension programs**. These programs support local stewardship through **collaborative planning** between local grazing communities and forest managers. USFS and the HC are also developing **educational tools** to connect watershed health and forest conservation to rangeland management.

Grazing management activities include:

- Development of Grazing Management Plans
- Support strategic planning efforts
- Implementation of Range School
- Emphasis on long-term monitoring of land condition
- Rangeland site assessments
- Watershed management
- A study tour in the United States for senior Moroccan decision-makers



All photos courtesy of United States Forest Service